

VZCZCXYZ0009
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHLB #3299 2861010
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 131010Z OCT 06
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6045
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1228
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 003299

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

NSC FOR ABRAMS/DORAN/MARCHESE/SINGH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/12/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNSC](#) [GT](#) [VN](#) [LE](#)
SUBJECT: UNSC ELECTION: MESSAGE FROM U/S BURNS (LEBANON)

REF: A. STATE 171921
[1](#)B. BEIRUT 3292

Classified By: Christopher W. Murray, Charge d'Affaires. Reason: Sections 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) On October 13, Charge spoke with Lebanese Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh to reinforce, per ref (a), the U.S. position on the race between Venezuela and Guatemala for the Latin American seat in the UN Security Council. Salloukh acknowledged our previous messages on this issue, initiated by Ambassador Feltman earlier this month and followed up most recently in ref (b). Salloukh said that he had met with the Guatemalan Foreign Minister in New York on the margins of the UNGA.

[1](#)2. (C) Salloukh then said that as for the GOL's support for either Venezuela or Guatemala, "pressure is coming from different sides." He advised that the Prime Minister would be involved in the decision.

[1](#)3. (C) At this point, we judge that either the GOL has not yet made a decision (more likely) or that it has made a decision in favor of supporting Venezuela and is withholding that information from us (less likely). Pressure in favor of Venezuela would come Hizballah and sympathetic Shia elements in Lebanon, including the government and FM Salloukh himself. Both Salloukh and his number two at the MFA, Boutros Assakr, who probably differ personally on this decision, have told us that no decision has been made and that Prime Minister Siniora will be involved. In response to ref (a) request for suggested follow-up action, we recommend a high level Department or NSC phone call to Prime Minister Siniora. PM Siniora would be most interested in knowing what other Arab countries support Guatemala.
MURRAY